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Annual Report

On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1944

BY

W. S. WALLACE, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE,
SEPTEMBER, 1945.

Newport, I.W.:

YELF BROS., LTD., Printers, Holyrood Street.



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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH OF THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY
OF
NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.

COUNTY HALL,
HIGH STREET,
NEWPORT, I.W.

July, 1945.

*To the Urban Sanitary Authority, the Town Council of
the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

MR. MAYOR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1944, the sixth war-time interim report.

There is nothing special in the report to which I wish to call your attention. The birthrate is the highest since 1923, the death rate is approximately the same as last year and the infantile mortality rate is again low compared with the country generally.

More notifications of infectious diseases were received than in 1943, mainly due to an increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough. Diphtheria was again absent from the Borough.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. WALLACE.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	15,530
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1944) per						
rate books	...	...	...	...	...	5,159
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£132,214
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£531/19/7

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident
population 20·2

Still Birth—Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 16·6

Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 14·4

Death from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and
childbirth :—

Rate per 1000 total (live and still births) ... Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births 39·4

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 40·5

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live
births 29·4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 33

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... Nil.

BIRTHS.

The birth rate was 20·2 per 1000 living ; the birth rate for England and Wales being 17·6.

DEATHS.

The death rate was 14·4 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11·6.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 39·4 per 1000 registered live births ; the rate for England and Wales generally was 46·0.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the whole of 1944 until November 27th, the water supply to the Borough and the surrounding districts was cut off for at least ten hours each night. This was partly due to decreased yield from the wells and borings and partly to increased demand necessitated by the presence of large numbers of H.M. Forces on the Island. New borings were driven during the last half of the year but these did not come into full production owing to the limited amount of machinery available.

All the water delivered to the mains is treated by chlorination. An analysis of the piped supply was made at least once a month, and sometimes oftener. The raw water from each source was examined bacteriologically once quarterly. In all, sixteen examinations of the piped supply and four of each of raw waters were made. The report on every sample but one was as follows : " Bacteriological Examination shows no evidence whatsoever of harmful pollution."

The one exception, the raw water from the Well in the Waterworks Yard dated 10/1/44, gave the following result :—

- (1) Total colonies grown on Agar at 37°C in 48 hours
=56 per 1 m.l. of water.
- (2) Number of coli aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing
at 37°C=3.
- (3) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l.
=Nil.

In all the other samples tested, both raw and treated, the number of colonies grown varied from Nil to six and B. Coli were absent.

In August, 1944 reports began to be received that the water tasted of paraffin. Investigations were made and an oil storage tank at Bowcombe, protected by sand-bags, was found to be leaking. Appropriate action was taken and the " taste " gradually began to lessen and had completely disappeared by December and there is no definite evidence that the trace of oil had any detrimental effect on the population.

HOUSING.

Only 99 houses were inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts and of these 5 were found unfit.

Two statutory notices were issued under the above Acts.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A large proportion of the animals slaughtered in the whole Island are killed at the Government controlled slaughter houses in the Borough and this has added greatly to the work of the Meat and Food Inspector.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Beasts</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected ...	1688	6180	6154	2025
All diseases except T.B. whole carcasses condemned ...	11	10	5	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	460	16	370	32
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B. ...	27·9	0·42	6·09	1·85
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses con- demned ...	91	—	—	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	637	—	—	210
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. ...	43·12	—	—	1·91
Total meat condemned	<i>Tons.</i> 39	<i>Cwt.</i> 6	<i>Qrs.</i> 1	<i>Lbs.</i> 15
Other Foodstuffs ...	7	1	—	4
Total ...	46	7	1	19

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases, 266, showed a slight increase over the previous year (252).

There was a decrease of 27 in the notifications of Scarlet Fever, a decrease of 25 of Measles and an increase of 79 of Whooping Cough.

There were no notifications of Diphtheria.

Immunisation continued throughout the year, mainly among children who had reached their first birthday, but all children entering school are again offered one further dose of A.P.T., and the response to this was fairly good.

The percentage of children under one year who have been immunised is 44, while of the school population approximately 91% have been inoculated with A.P.T.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis was greater by seven than in 1943, but there were two fewer deaths from that disease.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OCCURRING IN SCHOOLS.

Mumps	...	...	...	1
Chicken Pox		...	...	62
German Measles		...	...	1
Scabies	...	...	...	1
				65

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	36	30	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2*	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	—	1†
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—
Other diseases gen- erally notifiable			
<i>Erysipelas</i> ...	3	—	—
<i>Encephalitis</i> <i>Lethargica</i> ...	—	—	—
<i>Cerebro Spinal</i> <i>Meningitis</i> ...	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	82	2	—
Measles ...	138	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
	266	33	1

*Notified from Maternity Hospital.

†Notified from Mental Hospital.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Dysentery.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	1	6
1 and under 2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	9
2 „ „ 3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6
3 „ „ 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	4
4 „ „ 5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	17
5 „ „ 10	21	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	—	86
10 „ „ 15	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
15 „ „ 20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
20 „ „ 35	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
35 „ „ 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 „ „ 65	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	36	—	2	3	3	—	—	—	—	1	82	1	138

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
1	1	—	1	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1944.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary	
	Totals	M.	F.	M.	F.	Totals	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 " 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " 10	4	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	1	—
10 " 15	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
20 " 25	8	4	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 " 35	9	6	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
35 " 45	6	4	2	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
45 " 55	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 " 65	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	37*	18	14	2	3	6	2	3	1	—

*Included in this total are three patients who have been transferred from the mainland, and one old case previously recovered, re-admitted.

